

## Safety Message from the Police Chief: Give Cyclists



One of the major concerns for bicycles is safety and part of the responsibility of the police department is to increase awareness of traffic laws concerning both cyclists and motorists.

In an effort to conserve gasoline, more individuals are using bicycles for transportation whenever possible. It's not only a great way to help conserve on fuel, and incorporate a healthier lifestyle, but it's a great recreational sport. One of the major concerns for the sport is safety. Part of the responsibility of the police department is to increase awareness of traffic laws concerning both cyclists and motorists.

I received a letter from a cyclist who was recently injured by a passing motorist. She is an avid cyclist and stated that she has never met a rider that has not had things thrown at them or had an incident where a vehicle has come extremely close to them for no

apparent reason.

The law says motorists are to operate a vehicle within a reasonable and safe distance from the bicycle. In 2008, Sandy police officers have responded to 11 traffic accidents involving bicycles with a total of 86 accidents since 2005. Fortunately, there have been no fatalities during this period and our goal is to decrease the number of accidents seen on an annual basis.

I strongly urge that as a community we work together to be more aware when driving and to remember the "Three Foot Rule" and give cyclists three feet of space whenever possible. I also urge cyclists to be cautious and Continued page 16 "Cyclists"

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